GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:39
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN VILLAGES
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a serious view of giving no more time to the private basic telephone service providing companies for fulfilling their contractual liabilities of providing telephone connections in the villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private basic telephone service providing companies have failed in providing telephone connections despite the repeated extension of time limit given to them in the past;

(d) if so, the details of those private basic telephone service providing companies;

(e) whether the Government proposes to cancel the licences of these companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 39 FOR 2ND MARCH, 2005 REGARDING TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS IN VILLAGES.

(a) to (g) The six private basic service operators who were granted licenses in the year 1997-98, were to provide a fix number of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in their respective service area. The details of Village Public Telephone to be provided by these six Basic Private Operators are enclosed as Annexure-I. Due to delay in commencement of Service and non-provisioning of direct Exchange Lines and village public Telephones Liquidated Damages amounting to Rs. 53.75 Crores were recovered from these Private Basic Service Operators. The details are enclosed as Annexure-II.

Consequent to announcement of Unified Access Service Licence regime, the six private basic telephone service operators have migrated to Unified Access Service Licence regime in November, 2003 after paying applicable difference of entry fee and thereby the roll out obligations have changed to coverage of District Headquarters instead of provisioning of fixed number of Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and VPTs.

ANNEXURE-I

VPT STATUS

VPTs	Bharti Telenet Ltd. M.P.	Tata Teleservices A.P.	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Reliance Telecom Gujarat	Shyam Telelink Rajasthan	HFCL Infotel Punjab	Total
Month of Commencement of service	June, 1998	March, 1999	October, 1998	May, 2000	June, 2000	September, 2000	
No. of VPTs Committed in first 3 years from effective date#	16500	9635	25760	8635	31834	5442###	97806

No. of VPTs provided as on 31.10.2003##	611	1408	2643	4114	3010	879	12665

= These commitments were to be met by 30.09.1998 in case of AP, Gujarat, Punjab and by 30.9.99 in case of Maharashtra. For MP and Rajasthan the same were to be completed by 30.9.2000 and 4.3.2001 respectively.

= Figures are as reported by the licensees.

= As all villages have been covered in Punjab by BSNL, the faulty MARRs are replaced by the private licensees.

ANNEXURE-II

DETAILS OF LD CHARGES FROM PRIVATE BASIC SERVICE OPERATORS

Name of the Operator	Service Area	Month of commencement of service	Total LD charged for non commissioning of service & delay in provision of VPTs and DELls (in crores of Rs.)	LD for delay in provision of VPT and DEL (in crores of Rs.)	LD charged for non commissioning of service (in crores of Rs.)
Bharti	Madhya Pr.	June, 1998	4.00	4.00	Nil
Tata Teleservices	Andhra Pradesh	March, 1999	13.00	6.50	6.50
Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Maharashtra	October, 1998	7.75	6.50	1.25
Reliance	Gujarat	May 2000	13.00	6.50	6.50
Shyam Telelink	Rajasthan	June, 2000	8.00	4.00	4.00
HFCL Infotel	Punjab	September, 2000	8.00	4.00	4.00
		Total	53.75	31.50	22.25